

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) Device for the automatic formation of packs of panels ~~(11)~~ of electro-welded mesh, arranged downstream of a production machine comprising a work plane, the device comprising:

expulsion means ~~(12)~~ able to arrange said panels ~~(11)~~ emerging from said machine onto an accumulation plane ~~(13)~~ located as an extension to the work plane of said machine,

turnover means ~~(14)~~ able to turn over every other of said panels ~~(11)~~ with respect to the position in which ~~#~~ said every other of said panels exits said machine, ~~and~~

discharge means ~~(16)~~ to discharge said panels ~~(11)~~, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~
and

switching means ~~(15)~~ arranged downstream of said expulsion means ~~(12)~~ and able to direct, alternately and substantially continuously, at least one of said panels ~~(11)~~ either directly towards said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~ or towards said turnover means ~~(14)~~.

2. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means ~~(14)~~ comprise guide means ~~(30)~~ conformed ~~so as~~ to rotate said panels ~~(11)~~ sent towards them substantially through 180° and to position them overturned with respect to said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

3. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said guide means ~~(30)~~ comprise at least a first inclined rectilinear segment ~~(30a)~~ and at least a second curved segment ~~(30b)~~ able to connect said first rectilinear segment ~~(30a)~~ with said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

4. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second curved segment ~~(30b)~~ defines an angle of about 180°.

5. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 4 inclusive~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means ~~(14)~~ comprise conveyor means ~~(36)~~ able to transport said panels ~~(11)~~ at least along said first segment ~~(30a)~~ and part of said second segment ~~(30b)~~.

6. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyor means comprise at least a chain ~~(36)~~.

7. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyor means ~~(36)~~ comprise a shaped belt.

8. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 7 inclusive~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in an initial zone of said first segment ~~(30a)~~, said turnover

means {14} comprise attachment means {35} able to prevent said panels {11} from turning towards said expulsion means {12}.

9. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any claim from 2 to 8 inclusive~~, characterized in that wherein said turnover means {14} comprise second expulsion means {37} arranged in a terminal zone of said second segment {30b} and able to take said panels {11} towards said accumulation plane {13}.

10. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said switching means {15} comprise at least a board {27} movable between a first position wherein ~~it~~ said board directs said panel {11} directly towards said accumulation plane {13} and a second position wherein it directs said panel {11} towards said turnover means {14}.

11. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said expulsion means {12} are arranged downstream of the machine which produces said panels {11} and comprise a frame {20} on which are mounted rollers {21, 22} arranged on opposite sides with respect to a plane of feed {23} on which said panels {11} are able to advance.

12. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one {21} of said rollers is movable by means of actuator means {24} between an inactive position wherein ~~it~~ said at least one of said rollers is relatively distant from said

plane of feed ~~(23)~~, and an active position wherein ~~wherein~~ said at least one of said rollers is in contact with at least one of said panels ~~(11)~~ passing on said plane of feed ~~(23)~~.

13. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said discharge means ~~(16)~~ comprise at least two rotary elements ~~(48)~~ each one having a blade conformation, and able to selectively rotate around its own median axis ~~so as to~~ cause the fall and discharge of said panels ~~(11)~~.

14. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said discharge means ~~(16)~~ are arranged in correspondence with said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

15. (Currently amended) Device as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said turnover means ~~(14)~~ are arranged above said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~.

16. (Currently amended) Device as in ~~any~~ claim ~~hereinbefore~~ 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising auxiliary guide means arranged at outlet from said turnover means ~~(14)~~, and able to temporarily retain at least a first overturned panel ~~(11)~~ above said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~ in order to allow a second straight panel ~~(11)~~ to be positioned superimposed.

17. (Currently amended) Method for the automatic formation of packs of panels ~~{11}~~ of electro-welded mesh, comprising:

~~a first positioning step to position~~ at least one panel ~~{11}~~ on an accumulation plane ~~{13}~~ arranged as a substantial extension of the work plane of ~~the~~ a machine which produces the panels ~~{11}~~,

~~a second turnover step~~ turning over by means of turnover means ~~{14}~~ ~~to overturn~~ at least every other one of said panels ~~{11}~~ with respect to the position in which ~~it~~ said at least every other one of said panels exits said machine in order to arrange ~~it~~ said at least every other one of said panels overturned above said accumulation plane ~~{13}~~, and

~~a third step to discharge~~ discharging said panels ~~{11}~~, ~~characterized in that it provides that~~ wherein at least every other panel ~~{11}~~ is alternately directed, by means of switching means ~~{15}~~, either directly towards said accumulation plane ~~{13}~~ or towards said turnover means ~~{14}~~, ~~so as to render substantially simultaneous said first positioning step to position a first panel {11} on said accumulation plane {13} and said second turnover step to overturn a second panel {11}~~.

18. (Currently amended) Method as in claim 17, ~~characterized in that it provides that~~, wherein at the start of the cycle, at least two panels ~~{11}~~ are arranged in cooperation with said turnover means ~~{14}~~ before sending a third panel ~~{11}~~ towards said accumulation plane ~~{13}~~ in order to constitute an accumulation supply in said turnover means ~~{14}~~ comprising at least one panel ~~{11}~~.

19. (Currently amended) Method as in claim 17 ~~or 18~~, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each of said panels ~~(11)~~ takes about 4 seconds to be positioned on said
accumulation plane ~~(13)~~ and then discharged.

20. (Currently amended) Method as in ~~any~~ claim from 17 to ~~19~~ inclusive,
~~characterized in that it provides that~~ wherein an overturned panel ~~(11)~~ is positioned on
guide means arranged above said accumulation plane ~~(13)~~, and ~~that~~ said overturned panel
~~(11)~~ is then discharged on a subsequent straight panel ~~(11)~~ arranged on said accumulation
plane ~~(13)~~ in order to allow the simultaneous discharge of a pack of two panels ~~(11)~~.